

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 54*

by deleting the caption in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

A RESOLUTION to create special committees.

AND FURTHER AMEND by designating the existing language of the preamble and resolving clauses as "**PART I**" and by adding the following language, to be designated as "**PART II**":

Part II

WHEREAS, many children grow up in circumstances of chronic poverty and parental substance abuse; and others experience family break-up or the trauma of personal or societal violence; and

WHEREAS, some children are able to transcend such unfavorable circumstances and mature into well-balanced and productive adults while others fall into delinquent behavior or emotional disturbance; and

WHEREAS, the successful children seem to possess an inner resiliency that enables them to make wise decisions, avoid dangerous activities and risky behavior, and choose positive lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, children manifesting this resiliency have substantially fewer problems with drugs, violence, sexual involvement, and depression, conditions which create a high societal cost to treat; and

WHEREAS, there have been promising recent efforts to identify and analyze those characteristics of resiliency which include external assets such as family and parental support and communication, boundaries established by parents in the home, positive peer influence,

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structured use of time, internal assets relating to motivation to achieve at school and at home, valuing others and concern for the larger community, and social competencies; and

WHEREAS, although many professionals who deal with children seek on their own to promote such characteristics, many state programs focus on treating individual, negative problems which result from the actions of children with dysfunctional problems rather than taking a preventative approach by promoting the development of personal assets; and

WHEREAS, nurturing relationships with parents, peers, neighbors, and other significant adults will contribute a great deal to facilitating successful instruction in school and surviving the rigors of growing up in at-risk circumstances; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there shall be created a special joint committee to study methods by which the various state programs serving children and youth might promote those desirable innate resilient characteristics of children which will assist them to survive at-risk environment and traumatic events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall consist of four (4) senators, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate; four (4) representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; two (2) non-legislative members, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate; and two (2) non-legislative members, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the legislative member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting the committee shall elect a chair, a vice-chair and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, when engaged in the performance of committee duties, legislative members shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106, and non-legislative members shall receive reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the select joint committee, upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 2, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the Commissioners of the Departments of Children's Services, Education, Health, Human Services,

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and Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and to the Executive Director of the Commission on
Children and Youth.

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